



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

January 14, 2009

TO: More at Four Contractors and Program Contacts

FROM: Jody Koon and Cindy Wheeler

RE: Early Childhood Certification

North Carolina is once again leading the nation! The NC Office of School Readiness is partnering with the NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development (Institute) and Child Care Services Association (CCSA) to develop an Early Childhood Certification system (EEC) to support the next step in professionalizing the field. At this time, we invite nonpublic More at Four teachers and assistants to become certified at **no charge**.

The NC Institute is the certifying body for the early childhood profession in North Carolina. The Institute has been in existence since 1993 working across systems at the state level to develop a comprehensive early childhood professional development system that provides supportive, accessible, and individually appropriate education linked to compensation.

Early Educator Certification is defined as the process of verifying college education. (Early Educator Certification is not Birth-through-Kindergarten Licensure.) An individual's professional certification level will be determined by a review of education documentation and an education scale (see attachments).

By January 30, 2009, the Early Educator Certification application and materials will be mailed to the employing programs of More at Four teachers and assistants. Eligible applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by **March 1, 2009**. Eligible applicants include identified nonpublic More at Four teachers and teacher assistants from across the state who do not hold North Carolina Birth-through-Kindergarten Licensure. In addition, teachers enrolled (or on a waiting list for services) in the Teacher Licensure Unit are not targeted at this time.

Please encourage your More at Four programs to take advantage of this opportunity as we all work to recognize educational achievements and streamline the process of educational review. Please review the attached Early Educator Certification materials and/or visit the Institute's website section about Early Educator Certification at www.nceec.org. For more information, contact Erin Lyons, the NC Institute's Early Educator Certification Manager, at info@nceec.org or 919-942-7442.

We appreciate your partnership in this work.

Attachments Early Educator Certification Application Form
Early Educator Certification Scale
Early Educator Certification FAQ for More at Four Teachers and Assistants



John R. Pruette, M.Ed., *Executive Director* | john.pruette@ncmail.net | www.osr.nc.gov

2075 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2075 | (919) 981-5300 | Fax (919) 855-6840

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER